

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please SUBSTITUTE Figure 6 as shown on the enclosed replacement sheet. The amendment to Figure 6 labels “Home Network” as 1 and labels a “Visited Network” as 2.

Attachment: Replacement sheet for Figure 6.

REMARKS

The Office Action dated November 23, 2005, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the specification and claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1, 3-14, 16-21, and 24-25 are currently pending in the application, of which claims 1, 14, 20, and 21 are independent claims. Claims 2, 15, 22, and 23 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 3, 8-12, 14, 16, 17, 20, and 21 have been amended and claims 24 and 25 have been added to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention.

Specification Objections

The specification was objected to because of the spelling of "authorization" in paragraphs 0050 and 0054, and because of the punctuation in paragraph 0076. It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments to the specification render these objections moot. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that these objections be withdrawn.

Drawing Objections

The Drawings were objected to because Figure 6 uses the label Visited Network 1, and Figure 2 uses the label Home Network 1. The drawings have been amended, and it is

respectfully submitted that the objections to the drawings are moot in view of the amendments. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that these objections be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

Claim 3 was objected to because of an extra space between “verifying” and “whether.” Claim 3 has been amended to delete the extra space. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1-4, 7, 9-12, 14, 17-18, and 20-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 02/13567 of Kauppinen et al. (“Kauppinen”). As to claims 2 and 22-23, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2 and 22-23 have been cancelled and therefore the rejection is moot. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1, upon which claims 3-13 depend, is directed to a method for generating charging information in a communication system. The method includes providing a user equipment with an access to a service through an access entity of a first network to a gateway of a second network, the service provided in the second network, the user equipment being in a different time zone than the gateway of the second network. The method also includes generating subscriber information comprising a time zone indication of the user equipment in the access entity of the first network. The method further includes transmitting the subscriber information from the access entity of the first

network to the gateway of the second network. The method additionally includes generating the charging information for charging for the service based on the time zone indication.

Claim 14, upon which claims 16-19 depend, is directed to a communication system. The system includes a first network comprising an access entity configured to provide network access for a user equipment. The system also includes a second network comprising a gateway and configured to provide a service for the user equipment via the access entity and the gateway. The system further includes charging information generating means configured to generate the charging information for charging for the service based on the time zone information. The access entity of the first network comprises subscriber information generating means configured to generate the subscriber information comprising a time zone indication and subscriber information transmitting means configured to transmit the subscriber information from the access entity to the gateway of the second network. The gateway is configured to receive the time zone indication. The charging information generating means is configured to generate the charging information based on the time zone indication.

Claim 20 is directed to an access entity in a first network. The access entity is configured to generate subscriber information comprising a time zone indication relating to a location of a user equipment in connection with the access entity and transmit the subscriber information from the access entity to a gateway of a second network. The second network is configured to provide a service for the user equipment via the access

entity and the gateway, and the gateway is in a different time zone than the user equipment.

Claim 21, upon which claims 24-25 depend, is directed to a gateway configured to provide charging information using information regarding a time zone indication of a user equipment. The gateway is in a second network and the user equipment is provided with the network access by an access entity of a first network. The second network is configured to provide a service for the user equipment via the access entity and the gateway, and the gateway is in a different time zone than the user equipment.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited reference, Kauppinen, fails to disclose all of the elements of independent claims 1, 14, 20, and 21 and the dependent claims that depend from them.

Kauppinen relates to a method for handling the processing of a connection such as a call when a subscriber is attached to a visited network, as explained at page 2, lines 4 to 7 of Kauppinen. As described at page 3, lines 8 to 19, of Kauppinen, service information and/or other information is transferred from a visited network to a home network. A proxy CSCF in the visited network may pass the information to a serving CSCF in the home network, or to a home subscriber's server. One objective of Kauppinen is to allow an appropriate charging or other call control where a roaming subscriber calls to a destination in the visited network, as explained at page 3, lines 21 to 27 of Kauppinen. Because the home network does not normally know detailed information on local numbers used in the visited network, in the proxy CSCF the visited network is adapted to

add information about the called local destination, which may indicate the charging rate and type of destination. According to Kauppinen, and as shown in particular in figures 2 and 3 of that document, the service is provided in the visited network, see also page 3, lines 23 to 27, and page 6, lines 7 to 9, and page 8, lines 26 to 28.

As described at page 6, lines 23 to 27, page 8, lines 18 to 21 of Kauppinen, the proxy means 3 shown in figures 1 to 3 of Kauppinen or the local service element 8 shown in figures 2 and 3 may store information that includes the time zone of the visited network. When receiving a message from a mobile network element 1 requesting to be connected to a network element registered to the visited network, the proxy means 3 looks up additional information or parameters and sends a message to the serving CSCF of the home network. The message sent to the home network serving CSCF may relate to visited network or network elements as well information on parameters stored for the called party.

Kauppinen mentions that the time zone information concerning the first network is available to network elements of the first network, but does not say what is done with this information or why it is needed. In particular, Kauppinen does not say that a time zone indication of the user equipment is generated, and does not specifically describe that the user equipment's time zone indication is sent to the gateway of the second network. Kauppinen also does not disclose that the second network is located in a different time zone than the first network, that the service is provided in the second network, and that the charging information is generated based on the time zone indication. The

significance of the time zone of the visited network is not at all clear from Kauppinen, because the service is provided in the same network as that in which the user is located. The presence and significance of any time zone differences are simply not discussed in Kauppinen.

In contrast, claim 1 recites “the user equipment being in a different time zone than the gateway of the second network” and “generating the charging information for charging for the service based on the time zone indication,” claim 14 recites “the charging information generating means is configured to generate the charging information based on the time zone indication,” claim 20 recites “wherein the second network is configured to provide a service for the user equipment via the access entity and the gateway, and the gateway is in a different time zone than the user equipment,” and claim 21 recites “wherein the second network is configured to provide a service for the user equipment via the access entity and the gateway, and the gateway is in a different time zone than the user equipment.” It is respectfully submitted that Kauppinen fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-identified features of the invention.

Thus, as defined in claims 1, 20, and 21 the user equipment is located in a different time zone than the gateway of the second network, in which the service is provided. In Kauppinen in contrast, the service is provided in the same network in which the user equipment is located (i.e. in the visited network).

Therefore, certain embodiments of the present invention may address a particular problem that only arises when the subscriber is located remote from the service provider

and where the time zone relating to the subscriber and the service provider may be different from each other. Thus, the subscriber may be in one time zone and believe that he should be entitled to a lower tariff, whereas the service provider, located in a different time zone, believes that a higher tariff applies. This problem is also described in paragraph 0051 of the present application. In particular, if the service gateway is not aware that the subscriber is located in a different time zone, it is possible that the subscriber may be charged according to the time zone of the home network rather than the visited network. Certain embodiments of the present invention solve this problem by generating a time zone indication to the gateway of the second network, and generating charging information based on this time zone indication.

Again in contrast, Kauppinen does not disclose or suggest “generat[ing] the charging information for charging for the service based on the time zone indication” as recited in claims 1 and 14. The Office Action points to page 7, lines 18-23 of Kauppinen. Applicant respectfully submits that the cited passage does not say that Kauppinen generates charging information based on the time zone indication. Indeed, Kauppinen suggests that the “service class: payphone” and “charging info: rate” are sufficient to generate charging information. Therefore one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify Kauppinen to include additional unnecessary information. Therefore it is respectfully submitted that Kauppinen does not disclose or suggest the above-identified features and would not be modified by one of ordinary skill in the art to include what would appear to be unnecessary information. Therefore, it is

respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-4, 7, 9-12, 14, 17-18, and 20-23 be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 5-6, 15, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kauppinen in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0091632 of Turock et al. (“Turock”). The Office Action takes the position that Kauppinen teaches all of the elements of the claims except “with a prepaid account and managing the prepaid account in connection with the gateway,” “wherein the verifying step comprises verifying if the prepaid account possesses enough prepaid resources for receiving the service,” “charging information generating means configured to generate the charging information for charging for the service based on the time zone information,” and “wherein a subscriber of the user equipment possesses a prepaid account to be used in charging the service.” The Office Action supplies Turock to remedy the deficiencies of Kauppinen. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection with regard to claim 5-6 and 19 and submits that the rejection of claim 15 is moot because claim 15 has been cancelled.

Turock is directed to a method and system for linking prepaid cards and calls using those cards to pay for content and other services over the internet. Turock is therefore silent regarding the above-identified deficiencies of Kauppinen.

Claims 5-6 and 19 depend respectively from claims 1 and 14. Therefore the arguments above with respect to claims 1 and 14 are applicable here. Thus, Kauppinen is

deficient as described above, in addition to having the deficiencies the Office Action observes with regard to the additional limitations of claims 5-6 and 19. The combination of Kauppinen and Turock does not disclose or suggest all of the elements of the claimed invention, because Turock does not remedy the above-described deficiencies of Kauppinen. Therefore it is respectfully requested that the rejections of claims 5-6, 15, and 19 be withdrawn.

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Kauppinen in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0046090 of Stewart ("Stewart"). The Office Action takes the position that Kauppinen teaches all the elements of the claim except "generating said information regarding the time zone by mapping a Greenwich Mean Time time zone to a location of the user equipment". The Office Action cites Stewart to remedy the deficiencies of Kauppinen. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Stewart is directed to a distributed network system that transmits information to users based on past transactions of the users. Stewart generally describes a geographic-based communications service system that has a mobile unit for transmitting/receiving information. Stewart at paragraph 0045 describes a capability of adjusting the clocks of a mobile terminal to adjust to the time zone of the access point that is being used. Stewart, however, is silent about providing the mobile terminal's time zone information to the gateway or regarding any of the above-identified deficiencies of Kauppinen

Claim 8 depends from claim 1. Therefore the arguments above with respect to claim 1 are applicable here. Thus, Kauppinen is deficient as described above, in addition to having the deficiencies the Office Action observes with regard to the additional limitations of claim 8. The combination of Kauppinen and Stewart does not disclose or suggest all of the elements of the claimed invention, because Stewart does not remedy the above-described deficiencies of Kauppinen. Therefore it is respectfully requested that rejection of claim 8 be withdrawn.

Claims 13 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Kauppinen in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,097,945 of Evensen et al. ("Evensen"). The Office Action takes the position that Kauppinen teaches all the elements of the claims except "pricing the service according to a function of a time of the day when the service is provided" and "verifying means configured to verify whether the service is providable based on said information regarding the time zone." The Office Action supplies Evensen to remedy the deficiencies of Kauppinen. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Evensen is directed to handling of time zones in a telecommunication system. As explained by Evensen, a personal time table can be used to route calls. However, when a person travels to a new time zone, the time table must be changed if the same time of day is required for the time table, or in other words, the time table must be specified in "local time." Accordingly, Evensen proposes that a caller may call to personal number of a call recipient. The hardware where the call is received may access the time table of the recipient and adjust the time table based on the time zone provided by the subscriber

TZB, as explained at col. 2, line 38 to col. 3, line 64. Accordingly, Evensen does not address the above-identified deficiencies of Kauppinen.

Claims 13 and 16 depend respectively from claims 1 and 14. Therefore the arguments above with respect to claims 1 and 14 are applicable here. Thus, Kauppinen is deficient as described above, in addition to the deficiencies the Office Action observes with regard to the additional limitations of claims 13 and 16. The combination of Kauppinen and Evensen does not disclose or suggest all of the elements of the claimed invention, because Evensen does not remedy the above-described deficiencies of Kauppinen. Therefore it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 13 and 16 be withdrawn.

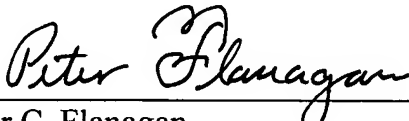
Conclusion

For the reasons explained above, it is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1, 3-14, 16-21, and 24-25 recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited art. Therefore it is respectfully requested that all of claims 1, 3-14, 16-21, and 24-25 be allowed, and that this application be passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure: Replacement Sheet – Figure 6